

part of the bulla. It is an African genus, containing two species which are spotted. The tail is ringed.

Gynogctle is at any rate a partially aquatic, short-tailed, web-footed, reddish brown -coloured Civet, which lives upon fish and Crustacea, and inhabits the M^alay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo. It has long " moustaches," and is said to have a head bearing a singular resemblance to the head of the Insectivorous

** Otter " *Potamogafe*. The metatarsus is bald, and the pollex and hallux are very well developed.

Sub-Fam. 6. Herpestinae. — There are over twenty species of *Herpestes* (Mongooses) divided between the Ethiopian and Oriental regions, one species, *H. ichneumon*, being also found in Europe. The fur has a " pepper and salt " appearance ; the feet are plantigrade. There are five fingers and toes. The pollex and hallux are small ; the tail is long. The tarsus and metatarsus are usually naked. The Egyptian species " has been injudiciously denominated the Cat of Pharaoh/' It is perhaps better known as Pharaoh's Mouse. The beast is so far Cat-like that it will destroy Hats and Mice ; and it has been exported to sugar plantations for that very purpose. More famous are its combats with venomous serpents. According to Aristotle and Pliny the Ichneumon first coats its body with a coating of mud, in which it wallows, and then, with this armour can defy the serpent. Topsell tells the tale better. The Ichneumon burrows in the sand, and ** when the aspe espyeth her threatening rage, presently turning about her taile, provoketh the ichneumon to combate, and with an open mouth and lofty head doth enter the list, to her owne perdition. For tlie ichneumon being nothing afraid of this great bravado, receiveth the encounter, and taking the head of the aspe in his mouth biteth that off to prevent the casting out of her poison." In the West Indies the animal has been described as fearlessly attacking the deadly Fer de Lance and receiving its bites with impunity; it is also added that it will eat the leaves of a particular plant as an antidote ! The real explanation of the result of these encounters is of course the agility of the Ichneumon * — -fort

cauteleuse *beste** as
Belon. says.

Another species, *Hi allicauda*, is distinguished, as
the name
denotes, by its white tail. A species of this
genus, *If*.

* See also vol. vii. p. 591,